# PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVE RYOTS AND MERCHANTS FROM ALL TALUKS OF THE PROVINCE OF MYSORE, HELD AT MYSORE ON THE 21st OCTOBER 1885.

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The *fifth* Annual Assembly of Representative Ryots and Merchants of Mysore was held in the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall, Mysore, on the 21st October 1885, the Dewan Mr. K. Sheshadri Iyer presiding. There were present on the occasion, the Councillors, the Judges of the Chief Court, the Heads of Departments, the Deputy Commissioners of Mysore and Shimoga, and the Civil and Sessions Judges of Mysore and Shimoga, and other officers of the State.

The Dewan read the following speech, which was afterwards read in Kanarese by the Officiating Under-Secretary.

GENTLEMEN:—It is my privilege to lay before you to-day, by command of His Highness the Maharajah, a brief statement of the important facts connected with the administration of the Province during the past year.

*Postponement of Enhanced Subsidy.*—Before submitting to you the usual financial statements, I beg to announce to you the important fact that the Government of India have been graciously pleased to recommend to the Secretary of State the postponement of the enhanced subsidy for a further period of 10 years. A brief reference to the history of this question will not be uninteresting to you. The amount of the subsidy, as fixed by the Treaty of 1799 and as hitherto paid, is 24½ lahks of Rupees. Under that Treaty, however, Mysore was also bound to pay contributions to the British Government towards the increased expenses of war. This indefinite liability for contributions in time of war, was commuted by the Treaty of 1807 into an obligation to maintain a body of 4,000 effective Horse in peace and war, such portion of this force as, in the opinion of the British Government, may not be required for the internal protection of the country, being maintained at all times ready to accompany the British Army on service beyond the Mysore Territory. The Instrument by which the administration of the Province was transferred to His Highness the Maharajah, commuted this obligation to maintain a Cavalry Force for external service, into one to pay 10½ lakhs of rupees per annum by way of an addition to the subsidy. Acting, however, under the influence of a sincere desire not to place an undue burden on the finances of Mysore in the early stage of the Maharajah's rule, the British Government postponed this addition of 10½ lakhs to the subsidy, for a period of 5 years from the date of Rendition. During the past four years, the financial position of the State has received the careful consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council. His Excellency has recognized the fact that the revenue of Mysore is not now so large as was anticipated at the time when the addition of 10½ lakhs to the subsidy was fixed, and, in view of the present embarrassed condition of the Mysore finances and of the demands upon the resources of the State, His Excellency has been pleased, as already stated, to recommend to the Secretary of State that the enhanced subsidy shall be forgone for an additional period of 10 years This is only a fresh but a very signal illustration of the generous treatment which the Mysore State has invariably received at the hands of the Paramount Power. His Highness' Government are deeply grateful for this boon, for without it, it would not at present be possible to maintain the administration of the Province at its present standard of efficiency. The ten years' postponement, however, gives the State sufficient time within which to recover from the effects of the late famine, and I beg to give you the assurance that His Highness' Government will spare no efforts, loyally to meet the Treaty obligation in question at the expiry of the time so graciously allowed.

*Surplus Revenue of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore.*—Another subject which has been decided by the Government of India is that the surplus revenue

of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore, which is administered by the British Government, shall be credited in the Imperial accounts.

In accordance with this decision, the receipts and expenditure of the Civil and Military Station have had to be excluded from the Provincial revenue and expenditure.

*Receipts and Expenditure for* 1884—85.—After making this deduction, the ordinary revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 1,00,70,975 and the expenditure to Rs. 99,55,601 as shown in the following statements :—

*Receipts.*

| | 1883—84. Rs. | 1884—85. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| Land Revenue ... ... ... ... | 73,30,811 | 66,83,886 |
| Excise ... ... ... ... | 9,58,624 | 11,79,625 |
| Forest ... ... ... ... | 6,27,283 | 6,57,564 |
| Stamps ... ... ... ... | 4,30,292 | 4,42,791 |
| Sayer ... ... ... ... | 2,83,426 | 3,40,699 |
| Mohatarfa ... ... ... ... | 2,81,442 | 2,65,102 |
| Law and Justice ... ... ... ... | 59,433 | 69,490 |
| Post Office ... ... ... ... | 58,616 | 61,607 |
| Registration ... ... ... ... | 42,249 | 44,839 |
| Amrut Mahal ... ... ... ... | 34,199 | 34,424 |
| Education ... ... ... ... | 23,966 | 32,348 |
| Salt ... ... ... ... | 26,455 | 24,464 |
| Public Works ... ... ... ... | 9,366 | 9,296 |
| Sale Proceeds of uncurrent copper coins ... ... | 26,128 | 3,103 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... | 1,27,433 | 2,22,237 |
| Total..... | 1,03,19,723 | 1,00,70,975 |

*Expenditure.*

*A.*

| | 1883—84. Rs. | 1884—85. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| Subsidy ... ... ... ... | 24,50,000 | 24,50,000 |
| Civil List ... ... ... ... | 10,00,000 | 10,00,000 |
| Interest on Public Debt ... ... ... | 4,91,237 | 5,17,531 |
| Political Pensions including Allowances in lieu of Jahgir... | 1,48,925 | 1,04,048 |
| Military Force ... ... ... ... | 7,38,009 | 7,56,939 |
| Total... | 48,28,171 | 48,28,518 |

*B.*

| | | 1883—84. Rs. | 1884—85. Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Land-Revenue Charges. | Administration and Public Departments ... ... | 1,86,290 | 2,04,097 |
| | Deputy Commissioners and Establishments ... ... | 1,37,808 | 1,35,190 |
| | Assistant Commissioners and do. ... ... | 47,630 | 53,761 |
| | Taluk Establishments ... ... ... | 3,12,037 | 3,15,917 |
| | Revenue Survey ... ... ... | 2,50,414 | 2,38,918 |
| | Inam Department ... ... ... | 7,816 | 7,985 |
| | Remuneration of Village Servants ... ... | 2,14,210 | 2,87,724 |
| | Other Items ... ... ... ... | 32,034 | 32,452 |
| | Excise ... ... ... ... ... | 16,097 | 18,300 |
| | Forest ... ... ... ... ... | 2,48,257 | 2,48,028 |
| | Stamps ... ... ... ... .. | 14,311 | 18,103 |
| | Sayer ... ... ... ... ... | 15,274 | 14,505 |
| | Stationery and Printing ... ... ... | 58,693 | 53,473 |
| | Amrut Mahal Department ... ... ... | 1,33,860 | 32,104 |
| | Topographical Survey ... ... ... | 84,285 | 80,483 |
| | Total... | 17,59,016 | 17,41,040 |

*C.*

| | 1883—84. | 1884—85. |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| Law and Justice including Jails ... ... | 7,10,064 | 7,58,883 |
| Police ... ... ... ... ... | 4,70,637 | 4,88,665 |
| Education ... ... ... ... ... | 1,38,065 | 1,45,130 |
| Muzarayi ... ... ... ... ... | 2,79,657 | 2,80,955 |
| Medical .. ... ... ... ... | 1,29,659 | 1,32,994 |
| Superannuation Pensions and Gratuities ... ... | 2,45,600 | 2,70,964 |
| Public Works ... ... ... ... | 9,36,001 | 8,93,687 |
| Post Office ... ... ... ... | 1,27,535 | 1,26,660 |
| Registration ... ... ... ... | 25,579 | 25,972 |
| Minor Departments ... ... ... ... | 17,173 | 17,666 |
| British Officers' Furlough and Absentee Allowances, Retiring Gratuities, Compensation Allowances and Leave and Pensionary Contributions ... ... | 1,15,621 | 65,621 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... | 1,88,944 | 1,78,846 |
| Total... | 33,84,536 | 33,86,043 |
| Grand Total ... | 99,71,722 | 99,55,601 |

At the close of the year, there was only a small surplus of Rs. 1,15,374, which compares rather unfavorably with the surplus of nearly 3½ lakhs at the close of the previous year. This result was not due to any increased expenditure. It was due entirely to a falling off in the revenue. Under Land Revenue, the realizations were 6½ lakhs less than in the previous year, because the year was one of partial drought throughout the northern and eastern parts of the Province, and the Government had either to postpone or to remit a portion of the Land Revenue in the affected tract.

Abkari, however, yielded 2¼ lakhs more than in 1883—84, owing to the larger amounts which the Government were able to secure from the new toddy and arrack contracts entered into in the beginning of 1884—85. These contracts are, usual, for a period of 3 years. Sayer shows a slight improvement of about half a lakh. Under Forest Revenue, the demand for sandalwood was unusually slack, and the sales realized only Rs. 3,22,308, or 1¼ lakhs less than in 1883—84. This however was made good by the larger sale of timber to the public, and by the supply of sleepers and fuel to the Railway. Thus, on the whole, the Forest Revenue amounted to Rs. 6,57,564, *i. e.*, about a ¼ lakh better than in the year previous. We ought not, however, to calculate upon sales of timber and fuel on such an extensive scale, for, the forests, especially the Fuel Reserves, require some rest. Under Miscellaneous items of Revenue, there was an increase of nearly 1 lakh. This was due chiefly to the Secretary of State's decision which recognized the services of British Officers in Mysore prior to 30th September 1882, as British Service for purposes of pension and leave allowances. This order secured to the State a refund of the contributions on account of their pensions and leave allowances which had previously been paid to the British Government. Thus the large decrease of 6½ lakhs under Land Revenue being made good in part by increase under other heads of revenue, the total income was only 2½ lakhs less than in 1883—84. Among items of expenditure, there have been no important variations of any kind, and the total expenditure has been maintained as in the previous year at the normal figure of about 99½ lakhs.

As already remarked, the foregoing figures exclude the revenue and expenditure of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore. The surplus revenue of the Station, which was included in the Provincial Cash Balances till the beginning of the last year, may be estimated at about 1½ lakhs per annum.

*Budget Estimates for* 1885—86.—The Budget for the current year, as finally revised, estimates for an income of Rs. 1,04,23,500. Under all heads of revenue except "Land Revenue," the estimates are based upon the actual realizations of the

past and previous years. Under Land Revenue, an income of Rs. 73,11,000 has been estimated for, though the actual realizations in the past year amounted to only Rs. 66,83,886. After the late Famine, the Land Ravenue decreased to about 70¼ lakhs, which was the amount realized in 1881—82 and 1882—83. The average realizations in the years immediately preceding the Famine were about 73 lakhs, and this figure was again reached in 1883—84. This improvement has not unfortunately been permanent, for, the last year was one of very scanty rain fall and short harvests, and it is followed by the exceptionally unfavorable season of the present year. Under such circumstances, the Land Revenue demand for the current year is likely to be only about 70 lakhs, but I believe it probable that the actual realizations, including the postponements of 1884—85, may be about 73 lakhs as estimated in the Budget, if the present favorable aspect of the season continues.

The Budget estimates for an expenditure in the current year of Rs. 1,02,39,810 against an actual expenditure of Rs. 99,55,601 in the past year. The increase is almost entirely due to the grant for Public Works being increased from 9½ to 12 lakhs, under circumstances which will be explained hereafter. "Police," "Education" and "Medical" are the only other heads, the increase under which calls for any remark. In the Police Department, it was found necessary, in the interests of its efficiency, to revert to the former system of employing separate Assistant Commissioners for the exclusive charge of the Police, under the orders of the District Officers. This measure has necessitated a redistribution of the cost of Assistant Commissioners between the Revenue, Judicial and Police Departments.

| | | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| * Actuals | .. | 1884—85 | 1,45,130 |
| Budget | .. | 1885—86 | 1,61,500 |
| † Actuals | ... | 1884—85 | 1,32,994 |
| Budget | .. | 1885—86 | 1,71,197 |

The improvement of the status of School Masters and a larger provision for grants-in-aid account for the slight *increase under "Education," while †that under "Medical" is due to the gradual substitution of Assistant Surgeons in the place of Apothecaries, and to the increased provision for purchase of medicines.

*State Railway.*—I shall now proceed to place before you the statistics connected with the State Railway. At present 140 miles of Railway from Mysore to Gubbi is open for traffic. The total cost of this length up to the end of 1884—85 amounted to Rs. 62,94,170, as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bangalore-Mysore Section, 86 miles open throughout the year ... | 43,56,690 |
| Bangalore-Tumkur Section, 43 miles opened on 11th August 1884 ... | 16,48,476 |
| Tumkur-Gubbi Section, 11 miles opened on 26th December 1884 ... | 2,89,004 |
| Total.... | 62,94,170 |

The revenue receipts amounted to Rs. 3,80,875, and the expenses to Rs. 2,07,087 leaving as net earnings Rs. 1,73,788, which added to the surplus of ordinary revenue, Rs. 1,15,379, gave a total cash balance of Rs 2,89,167 at the close of the last year. The net railway earnings were about 2·76 per cent on a capital outlay of about 63 lakhs till the close of the last year; but as only a portion of the total line of 140 miles was open throughout the year, the mean mileage worked was about 105 miles, and the net earnings *pro rata* are 3·68 per cent.

In addition to the capital expenditure up to the close of 1884—85, a further sum of Rs. 2,51,040 is provided for expenditure in the current year to meet the cost of six new engines which have lately arrived, and of some additional wagons and of improvements to the line. The total cost will thus be Rs. 65,45,210, or Rs. 46,751 per mile; and the earnings may be said to return 3·53 per cent on the capital.

The extension from Gubbi to Harihar, 157·282 miles, has still to be constructed. Surveys, plans and estimates as far as Tiptur, (32·81 miles), received the approval of the Government of India in January 1884, and similar papers for the portion between Tiptur and Harihar (124·472 miles) were forwarded to the Resident on 13th July

1885, for submission to the Government of India. The estimated cost of continuing the Railway beyond Gubbi to Harihar, (157·282 miles), amounts to Rs. 63,00,939 at a rate of Rs. 40,062 per mile. The difference in cost between what has been done and what has to be done is thus Rs. 6,689 per mile, the saving being due to cheaper survey, less bridging, accommodation already established at Head-quarters, plant now available, less equipment in rolling stock at outset, and saving in establishment.

The durbar has lately accepted a proposal made by the Government of India that the extension from Gubbi to Harihar should be executed with foreign capital. Negotiations are, it is believed, in progress between the Secretary of State for India on behalf of Mysore, and the Southern Mahratta Company, whereby the present line of 140 miles is to be hypothecated for the amount of its cost to the Company, who are to raise the additional capital required and carry out the extension. The amount which Mysore is to receive on the hypothecation of its present line is to be paid to the British Government in part liquidation of the Famine Loan. The terms under which the Company is to construct the extension and maintain, manage and work the whole system of the "Mysore State Railway" are to be similar to those of the existing contract between the Secretary of State and the Company as regards the Deccan Railways. U der this arrangement, Mysore will guarantee to the Company interest on its capital during the first five years, the State receiving the whole of the net earnings of the Railway during that period. After the first five years, the rate of guaranteed interest payable to the Company will be reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and the Company will then, in addition, retain for itself $\frac{1}{4}$th of the net earnings the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ths being handed over to Mysore. Due provision will be made for the Government retaining in its hands a control over the accounts and expenditure of the Company, and for Police arrangements on the line. The whole Railway is redeemable at the end of the 25th, 35th, or 45th year. These terms are, it will be seen, not unfavorable to Mysore. The amount to be received by the hypothecation of the open line, which, as already shown, has cost about 65 lakhs, will go a great way towards liquidating the Famine Loan which now amounts to about $77\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees. In this way Mysore will soon be free to apply to its own advantage, the heavy payments it now makes towards the re-payment of this loan; while the liability on account of the guranteed interest will not be serious, if the returns on the completed system are maintained at a figure which Mysore has a right to expect from its own experience in managing the small sections it has already constructed. If the cost of construction is limited to the amount provided by Mysore estimates, the difference between the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent guarantee and the Mysore share ($\frac{3}{4}$ths) of the 3 per cent earnings, will only amount to about Rs. 78,000 per annum. This charge is not to be considered as too high a price to be paid for a few years, for the advantage of securing at an early date a long length of Railway within the Province, with the option of purchasing it hereafter when the finances are in a more flourishing condition. The annual charge above referred to will cease when the Railway begins to earn $4\frac{2}{3}$ per cent on the capital; and, when it earns more than that rate, it will become a source of revenue to the State. Thus, on the whole the proposed arrangement with the Southern Mahratta Company is one which is calculated in every way to advance the best interests of the State.

In connection with the subject of Railways, I regret to have to inform you that our Consulting Engineer Colonel A. LeMessurier is shortly to leave us. He came to Mysore in November 1879, when the construction of the Mysore-Bangalore Railway had made very little progress beyond the earth-work done as relief work during the late famine. The early and satisfactory completion of this line, as well as its further extension to Gubbi was in a large measure due to his untiring energy. The Government always found in him a valuable adviser in all D. P. W. matters generally, and his exertions to train the young Native Engineers for Railway survey and construction, have been eminently successful. His Highness' Government regret very much that they are so soon to lose his services, and I take this opportunity of expressing their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him to the State during the six years he has been with us.

*Season Prospects.*—In my address to you on the occasion of the last annual meeting, I alluded to the then unfavourable prospects of the year. Happily the apprehensions at that time entertained were not realized. The north-east monsoon proved favorable and was sufficient to save a portion of the standing crops, though quite insufficient to fill the tanks, or to allow of more than one-half of the usual amount of wet cultivation under them. The dry crops in the north-eastern and eastern Districts yielded only a harvest, which varied from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the usual average. On the whole, however, a moderate harvest was secured and proved sufficient to avert immediate distress. During this year again, the unfavorable conditions of the first half of 1883—84 have repeated themselves in a more aggravated form. The south-west monsoon began very well in May, and continued to promise fair during that month and June. In July, however, it showed signs of failing, and, as the season advanced, the drought became greater and more general. Till about the end of September, the rain which fell was extremely scanty. The dry crops began to wither from the long continued drought. The early crops were entirely lost in parts of Mysore, Chitaldroog and Tumkur. In parts of Kolar and the Maidan portions of Kadur, the early rains were so scanty as not to allow of sowings to the usual extent. The tanks everywhere were empty, and no Kartik wet cultivation was carried on under them; and even in the Malnad, the rains were insufficient for the paddy crops. In Maidan Taluks the springs rapidly dried up, and much difficulty was experienced as regards drinking water. Fodder for cattle became scarce, and the Government had to open its Reserved Forests for purposes of pasture. Prices began to rise, and the mortality among cattle sensibly increased. There was thus every sign that the Province was in a most critical condition. It was evident that if the drought continued much longer, there would be widespread scarcity, which, if the north-east monsoon too failed, would soon deepen into a famine. When the prospect looked so gloomy, the rains of the 25th September and the following days removed all cause for immediate apprehension. The season has since assumed a very favorable aspect, and if this continues, we may calculate upon a tolerably fair harvest, though one rather below the usual average.

*Relief Measures.*—It will however be satisfactory to you to know that in view to meeting the apparently impending calamity, His Highness' Government had adopted measures for the inauguration of a system of relief work which, it was hoped, would afford the threatened Districts the means of tiding over the months of scarcity likely to intervene between the failure of the later crops, and the early harvest of the coming year. The system of relief which, it was decided to adopt, was the same as that which is prescribed for all British Provinces. There is, however, one point connected with the administration of relief, upon the importance of which His Highness' Government lay special stress. In their opinion it is essential that a scheme of relief, in order to be efficient, must provide, on an extensive scale, for works specially intended for the relief of the agricultural population in the vicinity of their villages. Our main object should be to prevent the dispersion of families in quest of distant works. Near every inhabited village, it will be easy to provide abundance of suitable work, such as the improvement of tanks, the making of wells and village-roads, the improvement of the existing local sanitary arrangements, the digging and weeding of fields, construction of Saguvali Kattes and other similar works. The employment of the people on such works will enable them to return to their homes at the end of each day's work, and thus it will be possible to preserve the mutually helpful bonds of village society. The early commencement of works of this kind is of paramount importance, for it is only in that way, we can induce the people to resort to relief works at the outset. Experience shows that in the earlier stages of distress, they prefer to cling to their homes upon unwholesome or insufficient food rather than seek employment on distant works. It is only when even such food fails and when emaciation sets in that they leave their homes in quest of work or food, and enter upon that career of aimless wandering which was so fruitful a source of suffering during the last Famine.

In organizing relief measures, therefore, my first endeavour was to arrange for a programme of works near the homes of the people. For some of the most affected parts of Tumkur and Chitaldroog, such a programme has already been mapped out on the principle of leaving no inhabited village without suitable work within a radius of 5 miles. It is in contemplation to complete the programme at an early date for the whole of the area likely to be affected by a succession of bad seasons.

In addition to these works intended chiefly for the agricultural population, and under the supervision of the Civil Officers, arrangements had also been made for undertaking, when required, a system of works under the professional control of the Public Works Department, and intended chiefly for persons who generally resort to such works for employment. The D. P. W. Relief Scheme to meet which an additional grant of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs was provisionally made to that Department, comprised the restoration or repair of a large number of tanks and the formation of a few useful new roads, and improvement of existing ones, the works being so situated that the laboring and even the agricultural classes could reach them without losing touch of their village homes. These projects would, it must be admitted, be entirely insufficient to meet the demand for work that would arise in the event of wide-spread and intense distress, but it was never apprehended that we should have to cope with a famine at all approaching in severity that of 1876—78. For the amount of distress anticipated, the works projected seemed sufficient. They would not entail profuse expenditure, and would prove remunerative, whilst affording for a limited period ample occupation to the landless classes and field-laborers. Should, indeed, a desolating famine again come on the land, it would be difficult to initiate D. P. W. relief works on a sufficiently large scale, without resorting to the immediate extension of our Railway lines, and starting the much discussed great Marikanave Reservoir and its subsidiary channels.

Prospects, however, have, as already stated, materially improved; abundant rains have recently fallen all over the Taluks which at one time were most sorely threatened; the tanks have partially filled, the withering crops have revived, and under Providence there is now every reason to hope that the need for exceptional measures of relief has, for the present, entirely ceased.

In congratulating the country on the narrow escape we have had, I must not omit to mention that in maturing my plans to meet the threatened calamity, it has been my good fortune to receive from Mr. Girdlestone, the British Resident, most valuable advice and support. The active interest he invariably evinced in the elaboration of relief measures has been a source of strength to me and of encouragement to my officers; and I take this opportunity to acknowledge thus publicly, on behalf of His Highness' Government, the cordial sympathy which they invariably received from him, during the anxious period the State has just passed through. My acknowledgments are also due to the District officers for their active watchfulness of the state of the country and for their preparedness for prompt action in case of need. I have also received valuable aid and co-operation from my Chief Secretary, Mr. Vijayindra Rao, in the organization of relief measures generally and from Major Bowen, the Public Works Secretary, in arranging, in the very short time at his disposal, an adequate programme of professional agency works.

*Irrigation Works.*—I must now touch on a subject as intimately connected with the averting of the dangers arising from abnormal seasons, as with the well-being of the Province in ordinary years. I mean our Irrigation Works. I shall first enumerate briefly what has been done to our tanks and channels in the years immediately preceding the great Famine, and what has been done since, and then I shall discuss the policy to be pursued in the near future.

In the years from 1871—72 to 1875—76 inclusive, the total outlay on Irriga-

tion was Rs. 20,07,539, of which Rs. 11,32,464 was on original works,—that is, on the restoration of abandoned tanks, or on the radical improvement and extension of our channels; and Rs. 8,75,075 on repairs,—that is, on the maintenance of already existing works yielding revenue. This gives in round numbers an average of Rs 4,00,000 on new and old works for each of the five years. Much useful work was done in the same direction during 1876—77, 1877—78 and 1878—79, which I shall call the famine years; but this expenditure was mostly abnormal, and its primary object was the alleviation of distress, and but partially, the benefit of the works themselves. So I shall pass those years by. From 1879—80 to 1884—85, both inclusive, the total outlay on irrigation was Rs. 18,56,668, or an average of over 3 lakhs for each of the six years. This average expenditure on works of vital importance though exhibiting no neglect of irrigation, was below that of the first five years of the last decade; but you will remember that not only did the Rendition of the Province and the disastrous results of the Famine lead to the breaking up of the expensive establishments previously employed on the so-called serial restoration of tanks, but in the years succeeding, the greater part of the resources of the State were wisely diverted to the rapid completion of a part of our projected Railway system. The further development of that system will, as already stated, shortly pass out of our hands under very favorable conditions, and the sensible relief of financial pressure that will then be afforded will enable us, it is hoped, to give greater attention and more ample funds to the furtherance of irrigation.

*Tank policy*—In my speech last year, I sketched the outlines of a scheme then under consideration for dealing with the maintenance of our tanks. The proposal I brought forward was to throw on the Public Works Department full responsibility for all tanks yielding a revenue of Rs. 500 and upwards. The onerous duties connected with the improvement and up-keep of the tanks were, it was thought, as much as the limited staff of the Public Works Department could well undertake. The up-keep of all tanks with a revenue less than Rs. 500 was to rest with the ryots themselves under the control of the revenue officers, whilst private capital and enterprize were to be enlisted in our service for the restoration, under favorable conditions, of old abandoned tanks. That scheme which is, it must be admitted, beset with many difficulties, has not yet been completely matured; and authorities on the subject differ as to the limit to be fixed in regard to the relative responsibilities of the Public Works Department and the ryots. The settlement of the question one way or the other is, however, one of the crying wants of the Province, and the Government have decided to test the feasibility of the five hundred rupee limit scheme by introducing it in the first instance into seven selected Taluks, one in each District. In these Taluks, the responsibilities of the Public Works staff will cease as regards tanks with a revenue less than Rs. 500, excepting in cases where the Revenue officers may find it necessary to call on the Engineers to construct masonry works, such as sluices, kodis and aqueducts, which the ryots themselves cannot well undertake. And, as the ryots can hardly be compelled to build or repair the stone revetments of such tanks, works to which they are unaccustomed, funds will be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for this purpose. It seems to me that this tentative measure will have the effect of putting to a crucial test the feasibility of the policy above indicated; and after the lapse of a reasonable period, the results of the trial now proposed will enable the Government finally to decide as to what limit and what system should be adopted in the future. I believe that, with the cordial co-operation of the Revenue and Public Works officers, the tentative scheme now to be adopted will be found to work so satisfactorily as to enable the Government to introduce it into the whole Province at no distant date.

*Marikanave Reservoir.*—The old project for a reservoir at Marikanave near Hiriyur is now being reconsidered. The proposal was originally brought forward as a feasible scheme by Major Dobbs in 1855, and then examined by Colonel Green at the express desire of Sir Mark Cubbon. In 1869, Major Sankey's design was sub-

mitted to the Government of India, but, as it did not contain full estimates for irrigation channels, the papers were returned. Surveys were afterwards continued till 1873, when the project was abandoned for want of funds. The site offers great natural advantages for the formation of a reservoir of very considerable capacity, and it is the intention of the Durbar to resume the project and at an early date to complete the necessary enquiries and surveys, with detailed estimates as to cost of head works and irrigating channels. It is probable that the work will eventually yield a return of about 7 per cent on the capital of about 20 lakhs which may be required, and, as it will be the means of relieving the State of its constant anxiety regarding portions of Chitaldroog, no effort will be spared to push it to an early completion.

*Collection and Scrutiny of Statistics.*—The imminence of the famine this year has brought to notice some defects in the present machinery for the collection and scrutiny of statistics—agricultural, vital and economic. For a small Province like Mysore, it may perhaps not be necessary to have a separate Department of Agriculture, but it is absolutely necessary to have at the head-quarters an officer of standing and experience, who could "collect and deal with the satistical returns relating to the weather, the agriculture, the health and the well-being of the people, and thus secure the most prompt and accurate knowledge attainable of a probable failure of crops, and of the extent and consequences of any failure that actually takes place." In ordinary times this work may not be sufficient for a separate officer. It is therefore in contemplation to combine the office of Director of Statistics with that of the Inspector General of Police and of Forests and Plantations.

*Re-constitution of Chitaldroog and Hassan Districts.*—The experience of the past three years has convinced the Maharaja's Government of the necessity of having a regular District in the place of the present Sub-Division in such a large and distant place as Chitaldroog. The tract, as you know, is one of the border Districts of the Mysore State, with a long line of frontier, wild and hilly in parts, and affording shelter to dacoits, and from its being constantly subject to drought, has always been a source of anxiety to Government. The reconstitution of this Sub-Division into a District with all the machinery necessary for an efficient Revenue and Police administration will go a great way towards promoting local responsibility and prevention of crime, and it will be an important step towards an efficient administration of famine relief.

At some future time, it may be advisable to consider whether Hassan also should not be restored to its former position, thus reducing to its original manageable size the Mysore District, which, at present, is rather unwieldy. But the question of the re-constitution of Hassan is not so pressing as that of Chitaldroog.

*Re-constitution of certain abolished Taluks.*—Experience has also convinced us of the great public inconvenience caused by amalgamating some of the important frontier Taluks with the neighbouring ones, and this is especially the case with the Taluks of Malvalli, Arkalgud, Malur and Kankuppa, and perhaps of Devanhalli also. Ever since these Taluks were broken up there have been complaints of the inconvenience, and, in some instances, of the positive hardship, resulting from the change. I have been unwilling to disturb the new arrangement without a fair trial. Later experience, however, makes it clear that, while the resultant saving is inappreciable, the breaking up of these Taluks has not promoted administrative efficiency, and has been attended with great inconvenience to the ryots and village officials, and has had a prejudicial effect on local trade and local prosperity. His Highness' Government have therefore resolved to re-constitute at an early date some of the abolished Taluks.

*Legislation.*—In the Legislative Department the Local Board's Regulation, which came under discussion in previous meetings of this Assembly, was submitted in April last to the Government of India for sanction.

The Draft Revenue Code as finally revised by the Mysore Government was, some

short time back, published in the official Gazette, and it is now being submitted to the Government of India.

The important Forest Regulation is still under discussion. The subject is surrounded by many difficulties, and this will be readily understood when it is said that in Forest matters, even the British Legislature, with its great experience, has not yet arrived at a final decision. The Forest Code is under revision in Bombay, the existing arrangements being deemed very unsatisfactory in the interests of the ryots. In Mysore, the subject is at present receiving careful consideration, and I may here mention that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja will enforce as a fundamental principle, that local wants, local customs, and local systems of tenure should not be disturbed. On the other hand, however, it must be distinctly understood that, as population and cultivation increase, it will be necessary for Government to interfere to prevent the wasteful destruction of forests and to ensure their conservation in the best interests of the people. It will be strongly impressed on the minds of Forest officers that their aim should be to conciliate the villagers in forest tracts, and secure their co-operation by liberal treatment in respect of their domestic wants.

In connection with Forest Legislation, I may add that it is proposed to place the Department under an Inspector General of Forests and Plantations. The Government are training three students in the Forest School at Dehra Dun for the post of Assistant Conservators, and it is proposed eventually to give an officer of this class to each District.

Though not strictly connected with the subject of Legislation, I may in this place mention that, at this moment, there is under consideration the introduction of an exhaustive Code of Rules based upon the Famine Code of the Madras Presidency and upon the provisional Famine Code of the Government of India. Such a Code will be a guide to our administrative officers of all grades in the inauguration and execution of relief measures in times of distress.

*Pasture.*—The important subject of pasture reserves is also now engaging the attention of Government. In a country like Mysore, where cattle-breeding is carried on to a large extent by the Government as well as by private individuals, the subject of pasture land is of the utmost importance. For the Government cattle, valuable pasture land has been reserved, and for private cattle the Survey Department has allotted to each village free Gomal or pasture land, this allotment being supplemented yearly by the sale to the villagers of the right to graze on Government waste-land, which, in many places, is extensive. In ordinary seasons, the existing provision is understood to be sufficient. In years of scanty rain-fall, there is invariably a general cry against the insufficiency of the existing grazing provision, and all the District Officers and Amildars consulted affirm that the cry is not without reason. The deficiency is generally met by temporarily placing the Reserved Forests at the disposal of villagers for the purpose of grazing, an arrangement inadequate in itself and not considered as a rule a safe one, as there is always a risk of the privilege being abused. It is, under the circumstances, proposed to make a permanent provision that may, to some extent, meet the requirements of good and bad years, and to make the ryot independent, as much as possible, of Government Reserved Forests. It is admitted that the present Amrut Mahal allotment is far in excess of what is actually utilized by the Government cattle, and it is therefore proposed to reduce it to some extent. When this is done, some of the surplus Kavals would be utilized for fuel and pasture reserves, which could be thrown open to the public in exceptional years, while other surplus Kavals could be placed at the disposal of the public on the moderate assessment of Hulgaval tenure, and on the distinct understanding of liability to enhanced assessment for lands brought under cultivation. The experiment of preserving green fodder in silos is being carried on on a large scale by the Military Secretary, who is in hopes of being able to report favorably upon it at an early date. The reports when received, will be published in the Gazette in English and Canarese.

*Anche or Local Post.*—A question of great importance which is now before the Government, relates to the Anche or the Local Post. It is undoubted that the Department is capable of much improvement. Two alternative proposals have been made to us by the Director General of the Post Office in India. The first proposal is that the complete control of Postal arrangements in Mysore should be surrendered by the Durbar to the Imperial Postal Department, that that Department should take over the whole of the Mysore Postal establishments, pay them from Imperial revenues, and treat Mysore in all postal matters exactly as if it were a British Province, the service correspondence of the State being carried at the cheap official postage rates prepaid by service stamps. The proposal is advantageous in many ways. It secures that centralization and uniformity of rules and organization, which is the essence of every efficient Postal system. It remedies that public inconvenience which naturally results from Mysore being isolated from the rest of India in Postal matters, and it saves the Maharaja's Government the trouble and cost of maintaining a local Postal Department, which, at best, only imitates the Imperial system in a manner necessarily imperfect. It involves no interference, administrative or political, though the liability of the State in respect of Mail robberies will increase as the British Postal system expands.

The alternative proposal submitted for the consideration of the Maharaja's Government is—

1*st*—that Mysore should adopt all British rules and rates of postage, using British Postage Stamps over-printed "Mysore," which will be supplied to it for the mere cost of manufacture;

2*ndly*—that all paid inland correspondence, official or non-official, transferred from Mysore to British Post Offices or *vice versa* be delivered free, each Post Office keeping whatever it collects in stamps or on bearing letters; and

3*rdly*—that Mysore introduces the Money-order, Insurance, Value-payable parcel, Postal note and other systems peculiar to the British Indian Post Office, retaining any fees it earns on account of them.

You will observe that this alternative proposal secures complete reciprocity in all Postal matters, but it must not be forgotten that its adoption throws a great responsibility upon the State, and is likely to involve some additional expenditure for the improvement of the present establishment. His Highness' Government have considered the subject with great care and in all its bearing, but, before coming to a final decision, they desire that it should be fully discussed at this Meeting.

Gentlemen, before concluding this address, let me assure you that it is a source of great satisfaction to His Highness the Maharaja that the opportunity afforded by this annual Assembly for the representation of public wants, and the suggestion of measures calculated to better the condition of the people, is prized as a valuable privilege by his subjects in all parts of the Province. At the outset, the institution was regarded by some as premature, but the continued interest you evince in public affairs, and the practical common sense which characterizes your discussions have served to refute the assumption so often made that the institution is in advance of the times. The success achieved in the past is an encouragement for further endeavours to secure at these annual meetings a fuller representation of the wants and wishes of the people. In view to attaining this end, His Highness has been pleased to direct that the various Local Boards, now about to be constituted, shall be empowered to select their representatives for this Assembly, thereby investing it with the authority and weight which belong to a body formally deputed for the representation of the people.